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THE ORGANIZED FARMER

January, 1957

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Winter Board Meeting

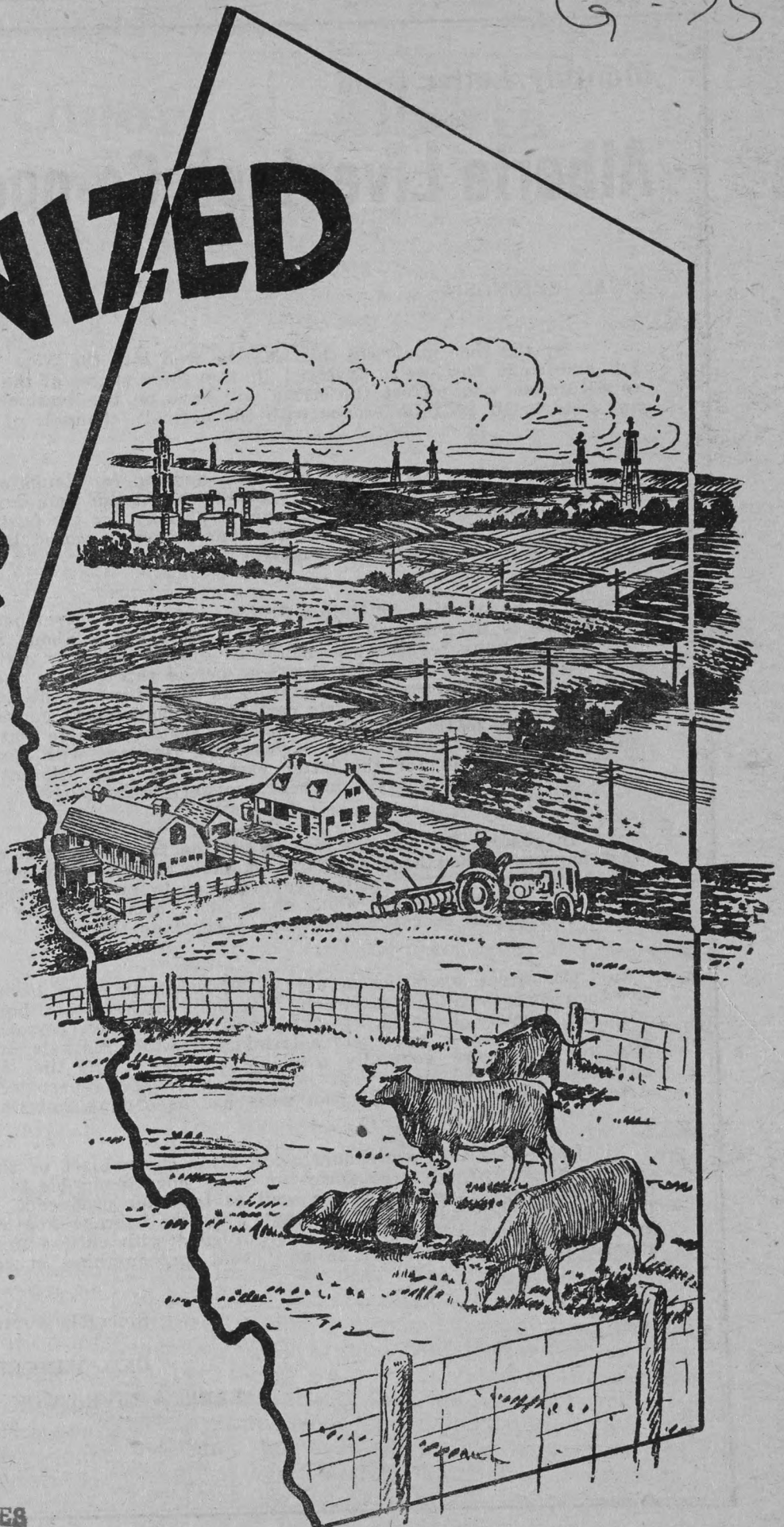
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by A. M. Brownlee

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GENERAL SOURCES

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Monthly Letter from

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited

DEAR FRIENDS:

By the time you read this we'll be well into the New Year. We're writing this on January 5th and right now we're involved in the early stages of the strike of CPR firemen. It's too early to determine what effect the strike will have on the livestock business, however it won't be helped any because of its interference with the normal channels of trade and commerce.

The year is starting out with the demand for slaughter livestock apparently good and consistent. You'll probably remember that at about this time last year hog prices hit the \$18.50 floor level for a short period. This year, and especially for the first part of the year, average prices for hogs should be quite a lot better than for the same period last year mainly because of consistent demand and a smaller visible supply.

The importation of United States cattle from November 1955 to May 1956 had the effect at the time of dropping all Canadian fat cattle prices about \$2.00 per cwt. and with the result of losses to many feeders who marketed during the early part of the year. There are some indications that fat cattle prices for the same period this year in the United States will be high enough to prevent a recurrence of importation in quantity and this year it's quite possible that prices for fat cattle in Canada for the early part of the year will be considerably better than a year ago. However with more cattle on feed in Canada it's also probable that prices for the latter part of the year will be considerably better than a year ago. However with more cattle on feed in Canada it's also probable that prices for the latter part of the year will not be quite as good as last year but under normal conditions should be reasonably satisfactory.

In general it's not too wise to get too far away from normal marketing practise no matter what happens. When hogs are of marketable weights they must come. However there's always a tendency on the part of cattle feeders to try to pick out a spot, to try to play the market. Particularly when one man thinks along those lines, many have the same idea and first thing you know we have a surplus of cattle one week, a shortage the next.

Consistent operating is always advisable. In every business there are professionals and the livestock business is no exception. The only professionals however who are directly concerned with the farmers' livestock are the farmers themselves, personally and through their organizations and the operators on your public terminal livestock markets. It doesn't cost much to use these organizations, they're generally available to you at any time and they'll give you unbiased advice and suggestions whenever you need them. Market reports are useful but not the whole answer. After all market reports tell you what has been done, not what is still to do.

Before we close we should again bring the subject of the competition we are holding concerning hogs. Anybody who raises or feeds hogs is eligible to enter. It applies to members of co-operative shipping associations as well as to other producers. We'd certainly like your entries if for no other reason than to find out what the average hog raiser thinks of the hog marketing business. We're not going to be overburdened with entries so don't get the idea your's hasn't a chance. Let's hear from you in any event and anything in connection with hogs.

Sincerely yours,

GEO. WINKELAAR, General Manager.

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED.

(Advertisement)

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9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta

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President's Report

Since the convention we have had a particularly busy time. A great deal of material had to be prepared for other meetings that were held in rapid succession after the new year. In addition there was increased work in the office itself, because of continuing membership returns, extra correspondence from locals, and the setting up of new membership services. Most of these affairs are reported on separately in other parts of this issue.

The Interprovincial Farm Union Council met in Winnipeg on January the 3rd and 4th, and the Alberta Federation of Agriculture the following week in Edmonton. The A.F.A. convention was followed immediately by our winter board meeting and this, in turn, by the Western Conference and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting at Winnipeg.

During this period we also made our annual presentation to the Provincial Cabinet. This presentation was made the afternoon before our board meeting and, as a result, a considerable number of board members were present, in addition to your executive. This is the largest representation that we have had at this presentation

for some years at least. We feel reasonably confident that we can expect action on a number of policy matters that were taken up at this time. All resolutions pertaining to provincial affairs were presented at the meeting, but time did not permit the discussion of all of them. Those that were not discussed will be presented to the Ministers concerned at the earliest opportunity with our argument in favor of what we are suggesting.

The Western Conference of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has just been completed and this report is being prepared just as the C.F.A. annual meeting is beginning. At the Western Conference the topic of most concern was price supports. It was generally agreed that the supports we now have cannot be expected to have any important affect in enabling agriculture to gain a proper share of the national income. Some argued that if the C.F.A. price support policy were inaugurated by the government in its entirety that the situation would be greatly improved. The majority, however, did not think that even this would be enough and, led by Alberta and Saskatchewan representatives, argued for an over-all support program with prices negotiated at a parity level, with

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WHEAT MARKETING COSTS

The Canadian Wheat Board markets the grain of prairie farmers on a cost basis. Producers receive an initial payment at the time of delivery, usually an interim payment during the crop year, and a final payment when all the grain delivered to a pool has been disposed of. The cost of selling is deducted from the returns from the sale of the grain and all the balance is returned to producers.

Because a number of farmers have made inquiries regarding the breakdown of the costs making up the difference between the payments to producers and the selling price of the grain the following tabulation has been prepared for 1954-55 wheat pool. The 1955-56 pool for wheat has not yet been terminated.

The 1954-55 wheat pool operated by the Canadian Wheat Board was wound up on May 6, 1956. It handled a total of 483,109,409 bushels of wheat and disbursed \$764,925,639.65 making an average selling price of \$1.58 a bushel. It took 164,055,511 bushels over from the 1953-54 pool on which it sustained a net loss of \$13,124,440.00.

The total bushels handled for the account of producers was 318,439,061. It is the producers' wheat each year that carries the cost of operating the Wheat Board and the following table shows the average amount per bushel that the farmers paid on 1954-55 deliveries for the various expenses involved:

Carrying and storage charges:		
Country carrying charges	31,414,619	9.87
Terminal storage	12,355,125	3.88
Total	43,770,345	13.75
*Paid by government	23,230,623	7.30
Paid by farmers	20,539,722	6.45
Wheat Board operating and selling costs borne by farmers:		
Storage and carrying charges	20,539,722	6.45
Interest, exchange, bank charges ..	7,077,546	2.22
Additional freight on wheat shipped to terminals other than basis of purchase	316,963	.10
Drying charges	190,553	.06
Administration	1,858,544	.58
Total costs	30,330,191	9.52
Surplus for distribution:		
Gross average selling price, all grades	158.00	
Less operating expenses	9.52	
Less loss on grain from 1953-54 pool	4.12	
Total	144.36	
Distribution to farmers:		
Initial payment, average all grades	124.95	
Interim payment, average all grades	7.11	
Final payment, average all grades	12.30	
Total	144.36	

It should be noted that the figures shown

above are averages and do not apply to any particular grade.

*Under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act the federal government is authorized to pay carrying charges on wheat in store in excess of 178 million bushels. Last year the amount in excess of this figure was 216,694,791.9 bushels.

—Wheat Pool Budget

ARGENTINE FLAXSEED ACREAGE ESTIMATES INCREASED

The Canadian Agricultural Secretary in Buenos Aires reports that the official estimate for area seeded to linseed in Argentina has undergone a substantial revision. The third estimate, just released, sets it at 1,302,000 hectares (3,217,000 acres), an increase of 20.6 per cent over the first estimate, and 93 per cent above crop year 1955-56. In relation to the averages for the last five and ten years it is 71 per cent and 21.1 per cent higher respectively.

—“Spot News from Abroad”

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 3)

deficiency payments used to make up the difference between a negotiated price and that actually received on the market. This view, with some disagreement on the mechanics of the proposal, prevailed and will no doubt receive much discussion this next week at the C.F.A. meeting.

The proposal to re-organize the Western Conference along the lines approved by our convention and the A.F.A. was referred to the member bodies for study and recommendation. Judging. However, I am impressed with the attention a lot of support. Daily press reports on the discussion of this item completely failed to give a fair presentation of the views expressed.

I would personally appeal for your every support for a new accounting service. We should do a job for you if you will just give us a chance. No member's problem is too big or too small for careful attention.

Conventions and board meetings day after day are very tiring and, at times, very frustrating. However, I am impressed with the attention our proposals receive from other groups. The F.U.A. and the A.F.A. are carrying their fair share in developing a national farm policy. All those chosen to represent you at the I.F.U.C., the A.F.A. and the Western Conference have worked hard and as a team to present our policy to those we were meeting with. I am proud of the job they have done.

Across The Secretary's Desk



By Mrs. Pansy Molen

PRESENTATION TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

A delegation from the F.U.A. met the Provincial Cabinet to present our brief which was made up from resolutions passed at the annual convention. Those present on the delegation were Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, Mrs. W. C. Taylor, Mrs. Mildred G. Redman, Messrs. Platt, Seeley, Nelson, Sears, Wood, Young, Loree, Powell, Marquardt, Wuth and C. Anderson.

Members of the Cabinet present were: premier Manning, Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Minister of Agriculture; Hon. A. O. Aalborg, Minister of Education; Hon. E. W. Hinman, Provincial Treasurer; Hon. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Hon. R. Reiersen, Minister of Industry and Labor; Hon. Fred Colburne, Minister without Portfolio; Hon. R. D. Jorgenson, Minister of Public Welfare; Hon. A. R. Patrick, Minister of Economic Affairs; Hon. J. Hartley, Minister of Public Works; Hon. Dr. W. W. Cross, Minister of Health; and Hon. N. A. Willmore, Minister of Lands and Forests.

Credit Policy

There is a need for long term, low interest rate loans being made available to Alberta farmers.

Reply—The Cabinet hopes to have some recommendations to put before the House this session, thus have something to make a start on.

Municipal Finance

Conclusions and suggestions that we had arrived at were presented.

Reply — The government appreciated the time our organization has spent on this matter. It is a very difficult problem and the government welcomes suggestions. The need is recognized for assistance to rural municipalities in oil, gas, and all other mineral development areas. They did not feel that it would be possible to give municipalities the authority to tax pipe lines running through them for at least five years. The licensing of industrial mobile equipment and trailers is being con-

sidered now. Mr. Aalborg was very pleased to see that the FUA had supported the Alberta School Trustee Association in its request for the establishment of a provincial salary schedule for teachers.

Rural Telephones

We requested that a revolving fund be made available to rural telephone companies so that they would be in a position to finance the construction of new lines or to modernize existing lines.

Reply—This is under consideration now.

Car Insurance

We urged the enforcement of safety responsibility laws, that the Highway Traffic Act be amended so as to provide that no auto or truck license may be obtained unless evidence of financial responsibility is shown. We recommended that the government sponsor and administer an accident policy scheme; and also that a commission be set up under the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund Act, to effect prompt settlement under the act without the necessity of the injured party taking legal action; but such settlements to be subject to court appeal.

Reply—They feel that the public is becoming more conscious of highway safety. The highway board and licensing department is considering a system of permanent numbers of drivers' licenses at present, and is working on a traffic law enforcement program. They did not commit themselves on the accident policy scheme, They know that the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund is lagging in court now.

Assistance in the Collection of Membership Fees

Municipal collection of membership fees was urged and as an alternate suggestion that all farmers take out a Producer's license from the Provincial Government and that Union fees be collected along with the license fee.

Reply—The cabinet believed that the producer's license would be very objectionable to the public and did not favor this scheme. In regard to the municipal collection of membership dues, they stated that it would be necessary to contact the municipal districts and the association and if they were favorable to the idea, then the government might consider it.

Board of Arbitration for Public Works

We recommended that a board of arbitration be set up for property owners in making settlements for land and for damages caused

(Continued on Page 6)

The F.U.A. Week Membership Drive

Last fall's plan was to conduct a week-long membership drive, to try and regain in that short period of time between November 12th and the 17th, the same results obtained during "Roundup" in 1954 when for the first time in the history of farm organizations, Alberta farmers had achieved the so called impossible, a majority representation.

However at this time of writing, regardless of how carefully these plans were made, it is quite evident that somewhere along the line weak spots developed. Roads were good, the weather was nice and we are told that farmers in general signed up quite readily when called on. The present sign-up of 32,407 as of January 17th indicates that a lot of work still remains to be done.

Plans were laid at the weekend board meeting to bring the drive to a successful conclusion. The district directors were quite optimistic, in reporting on the activities of their respective districts, that the Union would show a substantial increase in membership this year over last. At a later date when a large number of complete returns are available, we plan to publish a comparative breakdown of members over the last three years. Early returns indicate that, while we may not reach the all time high of 62,000 members, on the basis of present membership percentage-wise, family memberships have decreased and individual memberships have increased.

The purpose of these membership drives is two fold, first to bring into the Union as many farmers as possible or at least to have a sufficient number of farmer members so that the Union will be speaking on behalf of the majority; secondly, the aim of the Union is to bring to the attention of the western farmer the need for government protection and through the farm unions demand that action be taken to secure this protection.

The farm unions in both Canada and the United States believe in the family farm and are concerned that the welfare of the farm family is protected. They recognize that family farming contributes outstandingly to the development of individual personalities and to the integrity and stability of community life and its institutions.

PRESENTATION PROVINCIAL GOV'T . . .

(Continued on Page 5)

by construction of all public works and utilities.

Reply—They doubted if a permanent arbitration board would do better work than the

present individual boards. The farmers would not have a representative on a permanent board.

Power Pole Placement

We urged that wherever possible power lines do not go diagonally across farm land and that annual compensation be paid for damage and nuisance value of such lines.

Reply—It was stated that power poles have have to be built so that the line covers the shortest distance possible to save cost. Where possible to do so, this would be carried out. They do not think that there should be an annual compensation paid, because this is a development project and most people are anxious to have the power.

Oil and Gas Prices

We urged that if there are increases in oil and gas prices, that consideration be given to any method that will protect primary producers from such increases.

Reply—The cabinet believed that it would be quite probable that there will be increase in crude within six months, which will amount to about 1c per gallon.

Electric Power in Alberta

We drew to the attention of the cabinet that electric power could be provided much more cheaply through our Provincial Power Commission.

Reply—The cabinet did not commit themselves on this.

Re Homestead Act

We urge the government to make the following changes in the Homestead Act:

1. That acreage required for proving up the homestead should be left at 60 acres as in the old Act and not the present 100 acres required to get title.
2. Eliminate the \$310.00 fee to get title at the end of five years.
3. Increase free homestead timber allowance from 9,250 to 20,000 feet.
4. A truck road should be built into each new homestead area before it is thrown open for settlement.

Reply—The present homestead lease regulations are being reviewed. They are slowing down in opening up new homestead areas, and encouraging people to fill up areas now open. The matter of roads into new homestead areas is being considered but it is hard to justify this when some older areas do not have roads.

"Know Your Directors"



MAX SEARS

Max Sears of Duhamel, the new director for District 9 was born in Iowa, U.S.A., July 4, 1900. He lived in Tacoma, Washington for three years, then moved to the Suffield district in south eastern Alberta with his parents in 1912. After graduating from Alexandra High School in Medicine Hat, he took extra mural university courses in economics, English, and accountancy. Was employed for five years in the C.P.R. offices.

He moved to Bittern Lake district in 1923 and to Duhamel in 1925 where he now operates a half section mixed farm; feeds all grain raised, to hogs.

Mr. Sears has been a member of the UFA and FUA since 1923. Has been on farm boards for the past 16 years, a member of the United Church, Masonic and Oddfellows Lodge.

He is married to the former Lillian Thompson of Wetaskiwin, and has two children; Carole, aged 13 and Garry 8, both in school.

MRS. F. A. SISSONS

Mrs. F. A. Sissons, FWUA Director for District 9 was born and raised on a farm at Castor. She has been active in the farm union since her marriage in 1940. She is the mother of three children, a boy and girl in junior high school and the youngest boy attending public school in Clive.

Besides her activities in the Union, Mrs. Sissons has been a member of the United Church W.A. for 16 years, has been on the board of the Eclipse Regional Library and the school board.

She and her husband operate a $\frac{3}{4}$ section farm at Clive, raising Shorthorn cattle, hogs, and Clydesdale horses. They have won championship ribbons at shows in Alberta and at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto with their Clydesdales.

F.U.A. NEWS

The annual meeting of the Ruthenia Local #449 was held on January 5th with 15 members attending. Officers for the coming year are: President, Wm. S. Romanchuk; vice-president, Alec Kuziemyky; and secretary, S. F. Cebuliak.

DECEMBER 1956 MEMBERSHIP RECORD

District	Dec. Men	To date Men	Dec. Women	To date Women	Dec. Assoc.	To date Assoc.	Dec. Jrs.	To date Jrs.	To date Total
Dist. 1	575	1077	179	304	1	1	98	200	1582
Dist. 2	535	1105	124	271	---	---	120	212	1588
Dist. 3	814	1417	191	381	1	1	92	200	1999
Dist. 4	705	1355	179	361	---	---	138	274	1990
Dits. 5	672	1076	284	398	1	1	218	285	1760
Dist. 6	748	2162	272	825	---	2	155	399	3388
Dist. 7	1119	2323	316	682	---	---	194	358	3363
Dist. 8	700	1641	168	397	---	---	111	246	2284
Dist. 9	844	1763	235	514	---	---	115	270	2547
Dist. 10	914	1358	176	253	---	2	75	95	1708
Dist. 11	550	1022	134	314	1	3	60	133	1472
Dist. 12	717	954	191	302	1	1	101	141	1398
Dist. 13	251	489	107	175	---	1	36	70	735
Dist. 14	364	802	121	219	---	---	75	116	1137
TOTAL	9508	18544	2677	5396	5	12	1588	2999	26951

Minor Chief Ed Hunter's Address At Annual Convention

Some of you may recall a film of many years ago—one of the first spectacular films—"The Birth of a Nation." Its theme was that out of the Civil War in the United States, the national spirit of unity of the United States was born. My theme to you is, "The Death of a Nation"—the Indian people.

A joke being told today illustrates this. In northern Ontario a uranium strike was made on lands frequented by Indians. An elderly Indian was asked what benefit he thought his people might receive from the discovery. After thinking it over he replied, "When the white man came first, he brought beads and other cheap trinkets to trade for furs. But he wanted more and more furs and soon furs were gone. Then other white men came and took away big trees to make lumber. Soon some more came and took away the little trees to make pulp. Now he wants to take away the rocks that are left." That, in the opinion of most Indians sums up what they think of white people as a group.

The present policy, as illustrated by the events of the past five years, goes one step further. The white man wants to take the Indian away too. According to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Prime Minister St. Laurent stated that his reason for placing Indian Affairs under Citizenship and Immigration was to bring the Indian people into full citizenship. This is a deplorable breach of faith. When Canada wanted to get a peaceful occupation and possession of land in the three Western Provinces, the Crown negotiated a series of treaties with the Indians. The Commissioners very definitely stated that these treaties were between Her Majesty Queen Victoria and the Indian people. In return for millions of acres with their natural resources, the Indians were to have possession, forever, of pieces of land to be known as Indian Reserves, "Upon which no white man will be allowed to encroach."

In a speech to the Ottawa Canadian Club, March 1956, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration spoke glibly of "emancipating" the Indians. Emancipation from what — from their reserves and their homes, from the treaties that were to last forever, from the faith and trust in the white man's promise? What the Minister really had in mind was to emancipate the Federal Government from all the responsibility it

had willingly undertaken with respect to Indians.

Your executive made a protest against some of the devices to get Indians off their reserves. That protest appears in Hansard. Along with many other protests, it was disregarded by the policy-makers at Ottawa.

Merely by changing the definition of Indian status (over the protests of many groups of Indians) the Indian Act of 1951 completely reversed the policy set down in 1900 by order of the Privy Council. Nowadays, under the new definition, an Indian, or to state the matter more accurately, the descendants of a person admitted to Indian status by the Federal Government fifty years ago, or more, may be expelled from his reserve with compensation if:

1. He is the descendant of someone who was a victim of a technical error and was admitted to the wrong band.
 2. He has, under Canadian law but not under recognized Indian custom, some stain of illegitimacy.
 3. He is the descendant of someone alleged to have received land or money scrip in Alberta or elsewhere between 1880 and 1900 and so lost Indian status.
 4. He is said to have some white ancestors.
- All these provisions are contained in Section 12 of the Indian Act.

To the policy-makers it does not matter whether any of these above events happened 50 or 75 years ago. And please remember that few of these people, who may be displaced and become refugees from their own reserves, can support themselves and their families, in the world outside the reserve. Many of them are actually illiterate. In any case, many of them will become public charges of some sort. You are the people who will be saddled with the cost of supporting them. If they are destitute, you in your municipality may have to pay relief to them or let them starve on the roadside. If they are forced by misery into petty crime or delinquency, again, you will foot the bill because your taxes maintain police, courts and jails. Ottawa will have emancipated itself rather than the Indian.

Section Nine of the Indian Act provides this

trick. By stirring up trouble through methods of having Indians reporting on each other, the policy-makers at Ottawa have aroused petty jealousies. One case which involves the possible displacement of more than 100 persons arose when an Indian R.C.M.P. scout arrested the son of a tribal elder. This scout was simply carrying out his job. Because he did his job properly and enforced the law, he and other families were protected. This policy has caused untold hard feelings.

Very few Indians qualify under Government regulations and Government opinion as being able to manage all their own financial affairs. Those who can are afraid to ask for this privilege in case they are deprived of the use of their Band Funds as a source of loans for improvement, housing, etc.

The same officials who could, in this way, put the Indian in a responsible position, are compelled to follow the new integration policy set by Ottawa. I cannot define this word actually. My personal opinion is that integration seems complete equality at every phase and level of life — social, economic, political, educational. But neither the Treaty Indian nor the white man himself is really ready for that equality. May I make it clear at this point that there is no question whatever of intermarriage be-

tween members of the two races. Indians generally dislike intermarriage more than you do.

Last summer the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration took to himself a number of powers over Indians that formerly were powers of the Federal Cabinet only. This is a dangerous precedent. One individual should not, in Canada, have discretionary powers over the future of 160,000 Indians. This is a retreat from democracy and democratic practices.

On the other hand, to balance this dark and destructive picture, educational opportunities for Indians have improved. Enlarged and modern residential schools with well-trained staffs are hard at work preparing the youngsters in some 84 classrooms. Day schools, operating about 50 classrooms, have been built on a number of reserves and staffed with qualified teachers. But most of these have not existed long enough to bring a beginner up to grade eight. Over and above, an experimental six weeks' course for selected young adults was given at Olds School of Agriculture last spring. Perhaps in some ways the results were gratifying but in other instances disheartening. Trade courses have been made available with perhaps better results. Young men learned for example, welding. Some of them have been able

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EDITORIALS

Marketing Notes

Marketing agricultural products is an extremely difficult and complex business. Many are perishable, require extensive processing, must be transported considerable distances, are sold by many producers, bought by few processors and, finally, sold on a viciously competitive retail market. All these things exert a tremendous pressure to keep prices to producers low and to constantly reduce the percentage of the consumer's dollar that reaches the original producer. Certainly parity for agriculture cannot be achieved under the present system of marketing, for example — livestock and poultry products, which are of special interest to Alberta farmers. Perhaps the best argument against price supports that a government may have is our inefficient system of marketing. They may well say that we have no right to rely on price supports from the public purse as long as we refuse to make a job of marketing our products. Actually, efficient marketing cannot maintain agriculture in a prosperous position.

It is most encouraging to see a number of things done, or at least talked about, in regard to more efficient marketing. First of all, we in Alberta have at long last committed ourselves to making an all-out attempt to get an egg-marketing board this year. It will be the first

producer controlled marketing board in the history of this province. Let us be sure we go ahead and do the job and that is only a forerunner of many things to come.

Second, the Gordon Commission, in their report, when speaking of agricultural marketing, say that the further growth of the co-operative movement, and of compulsory marketing boards, based on the rule of the majority, during the immediate future, is highly probable. This is the kind of moral support the farm people need to help with the difficult task of organizing such schemes. It is to be hoped that our provincial and federal governments will also take a more definite stand on the sound principle that is involved here.

We are beginning to get a little research in marketing but of course there is need for much more. Recently, the Saskatchewan Royal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Life have published their findings in this field and they are most valuable. Our own University has prepared a comprehensive survey of marketing boards in Canada that will be very useful to us. Much more remains to be done and it should be done by research teams in our universities, or by other independent institutions and not in our departments of government where the suspicion of governmental influence is always present.

Another aspect of marketing deserves serious attention and that is the technical problem of storage. Here again much has been accomplished in enabling the producer, or his agent, to store perishable products for long periods of time. Much more can surely be done if our research people set their minds to this problem. The bargaining power of the producer is, to a large extent, dependent on the length of time that a product can be kept in storage without deterioration.

Which Road Do We Take?

During the past week I have had an opportunity to visit with a group of plant and animal scientists. These men showed me some of their work. They are on the threshold of having available to us new crop plants, and new types of hogs and cattle that will enable us to increase our production tremendously. These are not suppositions but facts. It is only a matter of time, and only a few short years at that, until the material that they have in the experimental plots and paddocks become commonplace on the farms of western Canada.

Confirmation of what the impact of these scientific advances will do is given in the Gordon Commission report. They estimate that, by 1980, the population of Canada will double and agri-

culture will have twice as many mouths to feed. In spite of this they estimate that the number of farms will actually decrease by 13%, but that the physical volume of production will more than double. I also talked with a prominent agricultural scientist who had just concluded a world tour of many countries and, especially of the tropic countries. He said that the rate of food production in these countries will increase at an even greater rate than in Canada and that it will only be a relatively short time until food production in many of these areas would catch up to and, in many cases, surpass consumption. For these reasons he did not think that there was any possibility of developing large markets outside of Canada for our food products except in the case of wheat. Again the finding of the Gordon Commission supports this opinion, as do the findings of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers which shows that world food production is increasing faster than population, despite the phenomenal rate at which the latter is growing.

What the long term result — no one can tell, but there appears to be no reasonable doubt that in the next 25 years food will be in surplus supply. For the good of humanity, and for world peace, this is highly desirable and we would not want it otherwise. We must realize, how-

ever, that unless we do something about it these surpluses will keep on depressing prices, and the more efficient we become as individual farmers the more depressed will become our industry as a whole.

We have two alternatives. We alone cannot make the decision, because the decision concerns all the people of Canada and not just farmers.

First, we can carry on just as we are. As surpluses accumulate we can lower prices until we force enough people out of agriculture to cut the production and allow prices to rise. The result will be a waste of human resources, cruel economic stress and insecurity amongst all farmers, an impoverished soil, fluctuating food prices with, perhaps, even shortages at times.

The other alternative would be orderly marketing, at reasonable prices that are guaranteed by the government, a constantly improving soil that would assure the permanence of Canada, a storage program to tide us, or our neighbors, over periods of adversity, perhaps even control the amount we can sell, perhaps the sacrifice of our independence of action for the common good, certainly a farm population that enjoys security in parity.

We farmers won't have much trouble making up our minds. I wonder can we persuade others to see it our way.

Now Open -

NEW EDMONTON FARM SUPPLY WAREHOUSE

Farm locals north of Red Deer will be pleased to know that U.F.A. Co-op's modern farm supply warehouse in Edmonton is now ready to serve them.

It will now be possible for northern customers to pick up most of their requirements at these up-to-date premises.

The warehouse is a Butler Steel building 70 feet by 100 feet and the office and display space, of concrete block construction, is 40 feet by 66 feet.

The location is one block off the Fort Trail immediately south of the Healy Ford Motor plant and west of Canada Packers.

Address all correspondence to Box 266, Edmonton.

Be sure to call around and look over these modern premises the next time you are in Edmonton.

U. F. A. Co-op Farm Supply Dept.

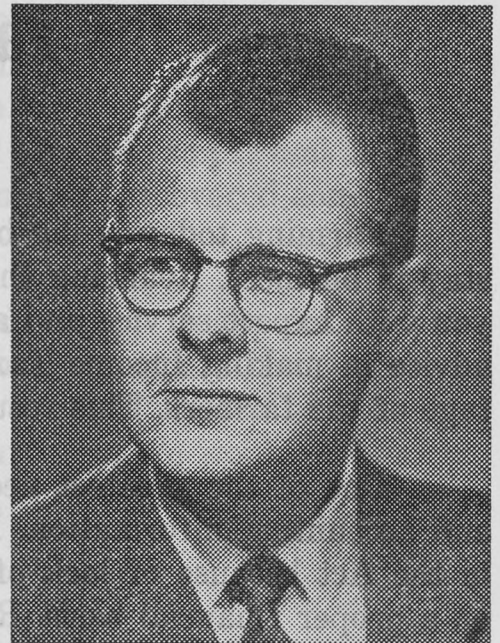
P.O. Box 1056, Edmonton

125 - 11th Ave. East, Calgary



BY HECKS MA — DON'T THINK WE SHOULD OPEN HER THIS YEAR!

FARM UNION ACCOUNTING SERVICE



Mr. E. B. McKitrick who has been appointed Director of the Farmers' Union Accounting Service.

Business address for the new service is Farm Union Building, 9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton.

Phone 25481 or 25965.

E. B. McKitrick

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we announce the addition of the Farmers' Union Accounting Service to members and prospective members of our organization.

This new service will be under the direction of Mr. E. B. McKitrick, and I feel that we have been most fortunate in obtaining the services of such a well trained man for this important post.

Mr. McKitrick was born in Crystal City, Manitoba, and educated there and in Winnipeg and has had a wealth of experience in Farm Accounting. During World War II he served with the R.C.A.F. From 1945 to 1948 Mr. McKitrick was an assessor in the Farm Section of the Edmonton Income Tax Branch, from 1948 to late 1950 he was associated with the Accounting firm of B. C. Tanner and Co. in Edmonton. In 1950 Mr. McKitrick opened his own Accounting Office under the name of McKitrick, Jullion and Co. and as senior partner in the latter organization has been carrying on a Public Accounting Service for the last five and one half years. Now located in the Farm Union Building, Mr. McKitrick is devoting full time to the management of the Farmers' Union Accounting Service. Mr. McKitrick is also an active member of the Edmonton Junior Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Board of Stewards of St. James United Church.

The Farmers' Union Accounting Service is a comprehensive service designed to help each and every one of our members. We are prepared to do our part. How successful we will be depends on the support the members of our organization will give this service.

FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

A. W. PLATT, President

How the Farm Union Accounting Service Can Help You

Farming today is big business. The farmer needs financial guidance if he is to stay in business. Realizing this the F.U.A. have established this department to provide you with expert service and advice. Less than 25% of farmers are receiving proper tax advice in making Income Tax Returns. Many fly-by-night operators are taking advantage of the farmers. This results in the payment of big fees for little or no service.

One of the greatest needs of the farmer today is a reliable source of Income Tax and accounting information. Many farmers do not take advantage of special provisions in the Act because of lack of information. Many seem unable to set up their business on a proper financial basis. Realizing this the F.U.A. have now provided an Accounting Service.

WHAT THE FARMERS' UNION ACCOUNTING SERVICE OFFERS YOU

1. The preparation of your yearly tax returns for as low as \$10.00.
2. The preparation of net worth statements if required.
3. Provide information, either by personal interview or by mail, on Income Tax, Succession Duties or Gift Tax.
4. Provide help by mail or by personal interview in setting up a bookkeeping system.
5. An Estate Planning Service for farmers wishing to retire or wishing to turn part of their land over to members of their family.
6. Provide statistical information with a view to asking for revision of unsatisfactory clauses in the Act.

How the Farm Union Accounting Service Will Assist You

INCOME TAX RETURNS

In any accounting service the first consideration must be the proper preparation of the Income Tax return of each farmer. To do this and to provide the Income Tax De-

partment with the necessary information the present Income Tax forms are very incomplete. A special form has been designed which would enable your consultant to make check of each farmer's yearly net worth. This would help to eliminate many of the check-ups presently being made by tax officials. This would also help to prevent farmers making mistakes which would cause him trouble and expense, if discovered some years later.

To give this service it will be necessary over a period of time to appoint suitable accountants in different parts of the province. These men would prepare the actual returns. A copy of these returns will be forwarded to the Central Office and double checked. These returns will also be helpful for statistical purposes. We would emphasize however that each farmer's returns will be handled on a strictly confidential basis.

FREE ADVICE

All members of the F.U.A. are entitled to free advice on their Income Tax problems. We will be very happy to be of help.

ESTATE PLANNING

Many farmers are faced with the problem of setting up members of their families on independent farms or in other businesses. This may result in additional tax if not handled in a proper manner. This and other problems in regard to making gifts are ones in which farmers need expert advice. To give this advice or to provide complete estate planning, legal service will be furnished.

STATISTICS

There are many farm regulations in the Income Tax Act which should and could be presented to the Government. By analyzing many farmers' returns and presenting facts it should be possible to have this done.

BOOKKEEPING

Through the efforts of Mrs. W. C. Taylor and Mr. Charles Seeley, the Farmers' Union Accounting Service have available a simple bookkeeping system. A Farm Record Book and a simple filing system are essential to every farmer today. We are of the opinion that the F.U.A. Farm Record Book is one of the best and most economical on the market. As there will be a great demand we advise you to order yours immediately.

What Will These Services Cost ?

We feel that the charge for the services available through the Farmers' Union of Alberta Accounting Service are very reasonable. For example, the cost of filing a personal Income Tax Return, for the average farmer who has kept his books up to date would be \$10.00. In the case of a farmer with a larger than average return the amount would be increased by a service fee in relation to the amount of the extra work involved.

To keep your books in a clear and comprehensive manner the F.U.A. Accounting Service have available a simplified record book which can be easily adapted to each farmer's requirements. This Record Book may be obtained from the F.U.A. Office for one dollar, Receipt and Expenditure file inserts for use along with the Farm Record Book are available for a further charge of 25c a set.

Charges for other services available through the F.U.A. Accounting Service will depend on the amount of work involved. It should be noted however that, in every instance, charges will be very reasonable, in comparison with charges usually made for such work.

No matter what system or service you are using at present the Farmers' Union Accounting Service are willing to "show you" where they can save you time, money and worry.

Take advantage of the FUA's Complete Accounting Service AVAILABLE NOW TO MEMBERS

COMPLETE THE ATTACHED COUPON AND MAIL TODAY

FARMERS' UNION ACCOUNTING SERVICE

FARM UNION BUILDING,

9934 - 106 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

We would like assistance and information on the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ----- The preparation of our 1956 Income Tax Return | ----- The preparation of a net worth statement so our tax position to date would be entirely cleared-up |
| ----- The FUA'S ACCOUNTING SERVICE Bookkeeping system | ----- The setting-up of an estate plan |
| ----- The establishing of a basic herd | ----- More information regarding the comprehensive service available through the FUA'S ACCOUNTING SERVICE |
| ----- The preparation of election to average forms | |

Name _____

Union Local No. _____

Address _____

MINOR CHIEF ED HUNTER'S ADDRESS AT ANNUAL CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 9)

to secure regular and profitable employment outside their reserves. Now a new scheme of taking children of grades six and up—perhaps even grade fours—to white schools by bus is being tried. Its success cannot yet be determined and results will vary from reserve to reserve. But so far these children have not integrated very well into school activities and continue to form small groups without and within the classrooms. In the classroom, also, the Indian child, like many others, has a language handicap which the large classes in town schools aggravates rather than decreases. Then the lunch hour presents very special problems of supervision. As a teacher of 34 years experience, I believe this is too advanced a policy for the present time. It would be far better for everybody to build and equip centers for higher education on centrally located reserves. The Ermine-skin School at Hobbema would be an excellent location for a Roman Catholic center of advanced Indian education. Perhaps the Edmonton School could be developed into a similar center for Protestant children. Such centers would bridge the gap over the too rapid change. If the education division of Indian affairs could be brought to see the need of going slowly instead of making abrupt and drastic changes, the future would be brighter. Time is not going to come to an end tomorrow or next year.

Good health is important. As far as T.B. goes great improvements have been possible through the Charles Camsell Indian Hospital and the regular X-ray services on reserves. These are now available through the Alberta T.B. Association. In other fields of health, the brightness is dimmed. After many years of medical attention at no cost to themselves, Indians are now faced with the fact that National Health and Welfare is cutting off much of that service. For example, Indians entering the Indian Hospital at Cardston are being slightly, if not strongly pressured to sign away their rather small interest money, \$95 in year 1955, to pay a six-dollar-a-day hospital charge. That may not be a large sum to you, but it is still a very large sum to most Indians in this province. Official spokesmen for the Department of National Health and Welfare frequently state that the Government has no obligation whatever to supply free health services to Indians. On the other hand, Treaty Six definitely includes a dispensary service, "There shall be a box of medicines at the Agent's house."

The chief result of this campaign will be to

revive the medicine man on the reserves. Personally, I have received much benefit from the use of some of these native remedies, but modern disease is becoming just a little too complicated for the native methods of treatment, besides medical associations do not license the native medicine man. As you know, unless a person has hospital insurance of some sort, it is, nowadays, less costly simply to die and be buried than to undergo hospitalization, and spend the rest of one's life paying the bills. Through neglect on their part and through being unable to pay money, Indians may simply die. A great many Indians still fear the white man's methods and his "death house" as hospitals are now.

Three definite problems must be faced by those who make Indian policies.

1. The rapid increase in our Indian population, about 3% per annum in recent years, has made many reserves rather too small for the needs of the people. There is now only about 100 acres per capita available and that will decrease every year, besides it includes land that is unfit for farming or growing. Sending the Indians off the reserve is not a solution. They have no more liking for such a change than members of all other races, including the white. Whether we like to admit it or not, every Indian who leaves his reserve must face a basically hostile white world, which tries to isolate him, socially and economically. On the other hand, life on the reserve is becoming more and more difficult and may soon result in lower standards of living than already exist. Complete integration is neither a sensible reply nor an intelligent solution to this problem.

2. In northern areas especially, the traditional means of livelihood such as trapping and fishing or even lumbering, is either declining or has disappeared. New industry, such as mining, has no real place for the Indian. To complicate this problem is the natural reluctance to migrate to more southern areas. Moreover, in the South there seems to be no land available for the Indian. The hunter and trapper is not really a farmer or rancher at heart and there has been no reasonable preparation for such a devastating change. We know that even skilled white workers do not like to move from one area to another where they have no friends. Again integration is neither the answer nor the solution.

3. Integration cannot be established merely by passing laws. It is a matter of changing beliefs, hearts, and minds. This is a slow process as world history illustrates. Even a common bond of religion has not been overly successful.

To sum up: Only a very gradual adjustment

can be truly beneficial. Haste arouses only resentment, which creates a racial problem and a social problem. If our policy-makers at Ottawa could only admit, and surely they have both intelligence and means to bring it about, that a long-range policy for the next 50 or 75 years should be instituted! Such a policy must be flexible enough to meet the needs of individual reserves; stable enough to develop in the Indian self-confidence and confidence in the good intention of his supervisors, that he has a secure future within his reserve, and it must be sympathetic to the Indian's own objectives in life. Completely autonomous reserves, respecting the individual ideals and human rights, full health services and educational opportunities as they may be needed — this should be the objective of those who make policies for the Indians.

As individuals in your community, you can do a great deal to advance life not destruction. You can work by seeking and spreading information that is not entirely one-sided, by urging Parliament to stop this continuous chipping away of Indian Treaty Rights and to stop this ruthless displacement of sheer technicalities of a people who peacefully gave you and the pioneers before you, access to and possession of the tremendous opportunities available in this province and in Canada. As individuals, and as members of this and other organizations, what are you prepared to do?

Wm. A. Moisey, Director of F.U.A. Dept. of Extension

The F.U.A. has now established a new department of information and extension. This department has been set up to service all district officials and locals of the organization with primary emphasis on the junior movement.

To head up this new department the F.U.A. has appointed Mr. Wm. A. Moisey, B.Sc. Mr. Moisey was born, raised and has farmed at Whitford, Alberta. He is a graduate of the Edmonton Normal School and the University of Alberta. During the thirties he taught school and worked in dairies in Elk Point and Edmonton in various capacities. For eleven years he was employed as District Agriculturist with the Alberta Department of Agriculture. At present he is employed by the Department of Education in Edmonton. Mr. Moisey will assume his new duties March 1st of this year.

We feel that he is thoroughly dedicated to the ideals of the Farmers' Union and has a wonderful background of training and experience. We are sure he will be of great assistance, especially in our junior work.



VETERANS ON THE LAND



We were pleased to see familiar faces at the convention. Those who were eager to attend our meeting of the convention. There are still others who are veterans that could not attend on account of farm duties and also when the weather to get colder could not get away. Needless to say they were disappointed. We should find more of our Veterans attending. We have been favored by Mr. Allan in charge of Edmonton V.L.A. office as our guest speaker, assisted by other members of his staff. This is where many of your questions are answered; it can be noted that many of our problems are alike. There are isolated problems when answered, and explained, give many of us new ideas.

We have just passed another Christmas season. Some of us dread to look forward to it as there are many demands on us; but anyway it is a get together of our friends and families. On entering another year our festive season is still with us—may this year be a happy and successful year for you.

Just recently I attended my regiment's reunion,—what pleasure that was! The greetings were genuine irrespective of ages. The remarks on meeting were varied. Some were — look he's not a day older or he's still the same old chap. All were there looking for the boys they knew, ones they had spent months or years together with. They all had something in common when they meet.

I only mention this to point out the comradeship that exists amongst servicemen. Just a word and they are very much in accord; one could say there is a kindred spirit amongst these men. This can be taken into the efforts to co-operate for strength in our farm movement. It has come to a place now where we can't make our request individually. From time to time servicemen ask "Can you help us through the Veteran's Section?" Our answer is, "Yes, we'll try." Be at the convention or let us know your problem—old or established farmers maybe don't notice these things but our position is different.

We are wishing to bind ourselves for strength and not to harm our countrymen or the economy of our land but we are having to consider something for our survival in agriculture.

Follow this column each month as we are going to have something fresh for you—mainly on V.L.A. information that you can depend on as it will be authentic. Time did not permit it for this issue.

F W U A

Section



President's Report

By Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

Convention —

By this time your own delegates will have reported back to the locals, and you already have a good idea about many things that interest you. In the F.W.U.A. executive letter sent to the locals, some of the highlights were dealt with. Delegates were asked to fill in the questionnaire and return it to central office, this will be helpful in planning the next convention. We did have a good convention, the delegates showed real interest in the resolutions and in the discussions many points of information were given and received, all this helps us in going to authorities and presenting facts to work for the worthwhile things we sponsor as a responsible organization.

Resolutions —

The F.U.A. brief containing resolutions passed at the convention was presented to the Premier and Cabinet Members on January 11th. The board was meeting so it was possible for the directors to be on hand to participate. We will have a report on this, so you will know just how these matters stand. The F.W.U.A. will present their brief on January 28 and we are happy to get these matters before the provincial government before the session starts on February 14. We will be listening for the speech from the throne, it may indicate some of the legislation to expect.

The federal resolutions will be taken to Ottawa and many of our members will go along and be present when we meet the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. A further report will be given on this later.

Operation "Booster" —

The F.U.A. board decided to go into districts with a campaign designed to boost membership, that is to do all possible to sign up those who were not contacted during the recent membership drive. Here is a real chance for all sub-directors to help boost their own area in co-operation with their director. In face of the economic situation at present, it would be more valiant to belong than think about it any longer. We need the farmer to boost for himself — nobody else will, and we can do much better through a sense of belonging with each other in our organization. This is a good time to get in and be a "booster" and work constructively for the farm family. There's lots to be done, so let's get busy! The F.W.U.A. are in this too so just don't wait for "George" to do it, we want our farm women to get in this "Booster" campaign too, for we are sure there are many prospective members in your district, possibly some long-time members have been overlooked? Will you do your part?

Mrs. Winnifred Stewart —

You will be pleased to know that after many long years of hard work the new school for retarded children has been opened in Edmonton. You will remember Mrs. Stewart addressed our convention in 1954. On behalf of the F.W.U.A. a letter has been sent congratulating the Association and the personal honour accorded its founder in the name "Winnifred Stewart School for Retarded Children." A portrait of Mrs. Stewart was unveiled at the official ceremony. The Calgary association are working for a school there.

F.W.U.A. Hi-Lights

Viking South FWUA #807 report a short business meeting due to reports on the convention, handicrafts and the Hobbema Indians—especially on the eviction of the 118 families from the reserve. After the meeting the ladies joined the men's meeting—after which a very happy social evening was held—carols sung, Christmas slides shown and treats served.

* * *

The December meeting of Three Hills FWUA #1018 was turned into a social or Christmas party — with singing of carols, quiz games, readings and gift exchanges. A very enjoyable time was had by all. Seven new members were present. A donation was voted to be sent to the Salvation Army and the Wood's Christian Homes.

* * *

One Tree FWUA #1307 (Brooks) report a very successful meeting in December, started with a "pot-luck supper", followed by delegate's report from the convention, then regular meeting. A good discussion followed the delegate's report — especially on 'Alberta Indians, 'Cancer' and the 'Unitarian Service Committee'.

* * *

At the January '57 meeting of Heath #703 meeting dates and bulletins for the forthcoming year were chosen by the members. It was agreed to take hospital sewing again this year. A report on the convention was given by the delegate.

* * *

Jenny Lind FWUA #1305 (Scandia) report a very active and interesting annual meeting and banquet on Dec. 7th. A varied program of entertainment was held; a Christmas cake was raffled and a collection for the Junior Red Cross taken; donations were made to various organizations (including T.B. Association—the seals being placed on place cards at the banquet. A friendship quilt is being made to be raffled at a social evening this month. Delegate to the annual convention gave a very interesting report on it.

HOW TO JUDGE QUALITY IN MEN'S SUITS

A man's suit is an investment. Although you cannot see many of the things that contribute to the quality of the suit, you do not have to invest your money blindly. There are several ways you can judge suit quality, as you shop, says Mrs. V. G. Macdonald, Home Economics Extension Service, Department of Agriculture.

Look for the ear-marks of quality as you choose a suit. If the suit is striped or a plaid,

check for matched patterns at seams, front closing, and pocket openings. While matched patterns add to the appearance rather than durability, they do indicate a high standard of construction. The hang of the sleeves also testifies to suit quality. For comfort and good appearance, they should be set so the front of the sleeves comes to the centre of the pocket, as the sleeves hang naturally.

Take note of both sleeves, because in low-grade suits, they often hang differently. Then, the wearer will find that one sleeve is less comfortable than the other and may wrinkle more at the sleeve head. Sleeves in good quality suits are carefully shaped and roller with now pressed-in creases. Pressed-in creases accentuate the natural folds at the bend of the arm.

Also, inspect the coat lining. It should be smooth and easily fitted, with no wrinkles. To provide "give", there should be a narrow fold at the lower edge, placed high enough so it will not show below the coat.

The type of workmanship and materials used in a coat foundation, between the outer fabric and lining, accounts for many important differences between high and low-grade suits. A suit's long-term fit is the true test of the quality of this foundation. A few simple tests can help you judge it as you shop. For example, gently roll forward a tip of the collar or lapel. If it is permanently shaped, it flips back into place immediately. When trying on a suit, lean forward. In a good quality suit, the V-line formed by the roll of the lapels will not buckle out, because the inside construction makes the lapels set close to the body, regardless of how the wearer bends.

Try out the suit as you try it on. Step up and down, flex your arms and sit with your knees crossed. Move about as you ordinarily do. You can expect a suit made of fabric that is 50% or more man-made fibre to feel larger in some places than does an all-wool suit. This is because these fibres do not give as all-wool does, and you need the extra room for freedom of movement.

Minor alterations, such as shortening the sleeves and lifting a shoulder with additional padding, often will be necessary. But, major alterations—shortening a coat (which usually means the waistline is out of place) or resetting the sleeves — are not advisable. Never buy a suit proportioned for a body-build other than your own, for it will never be comfortable and can never be satisfactorily altered to fit you.

As you shop, remember — no suit is a good buy unless it will keep its fit and trim appearance through several seasons of wearing and cleaning.

THE WINTER BOARD MEETING

By A. W. Platt

The winter Board Meeting was held January 12 to 14th this year. This is much earlier than the normal time that the Board meets but, owing to the urgency of some matters under discussion, and the heavy schedule that the Board members have through the remainder of the winter, it was decided to hold it at this early date. This presented some difficulties in getting material ready for the board meeting but, by and large, a good deal of business was accomplished. A summary of some of the highlights is given below.

A report was given on the Interprovincial Farm Union Council meeting held in Winnipeg and the finances of this organization were discussed. It was agreed that the Farmers' Union of Alberta would contribute 25c for each \$5 in membership collected with a minimum grant of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$8,000. This is on the same basis as our contribution last year and corresponds to the grants given by the other Farm Unions, with the exception that they provide for no minimum or maximum grant.

Plans for the 1957 district conventions were made and most of the convention dates have been approved at this time. Generally speaking most of the conventions will be held in June but some of the more northern districts will hold theirs early in July. It is necessary to get the conventions finished before the summer meeting of the joint boards of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council and the summer board meeting of our own organization. It was also decided to hold the next annual convention of the Farmers' Union at the Macdonald Hotel, in Edmonton, December 9-13. Consideration was given to holding the convention in Calgary next year but, owing to the fact that it was not possible to arrange for a suitable meeting place at this time, it was decided to hold the convention in Edmonton. Space for conventions is now at such a premium that it requires almost a year's notice in order to find a suitable accommodation.

Considerable time was spent in discussing the action program. Arrangements were made to send one representative from each district in the province to Ottawa at the time our Brief will be presented to the government. Arrangements were also made to see that we had two people in Ottawa at all times between now and the end of the session to watch over Agricul-

tural Legislation that is being introduced and to acquaint the members particularly in eastern Canada with the agricultural problems of the west and the program of the Farmers' Union. This is now under way. Mr. Young was the first to leave and he is to be followed by Mr. Wood, of Dewberry, and later by Mr. Nelson of Brightview, and Mrs. Redman of Hardisty. Other people will be sent at a later date. Plans were also completed for the forthcoming federal election that is expected in June. Meetings at strategic points in all rural constituencies will be held at which all the candidates for office will be invited to speak on their agricultural policy. These meetings will be sponsored by the districts of the Farm Union and we anticipate that we will get a good discussion of agricultural problems during the election campaign by all political parties.

The matter of radio publicity for farm union affairs was discussed at considerable length. Proposals from broadcasting stations for a farm union sponsored program was discussed in detail. Unfortunately the type of program that we would wish to get and to broadcast over the province proved beyond our financial ability at this time. Various other schemes were suggested and noted. Finally the matter was left to the executive to see what kind of radio publicity we could get with the funds at our disposal.

A lengthy discussion took place on what might be termed "Farm Union Education." It was the opinion of many of the directors that the general membership is not kept well enough informed as to what is going on in the Farm Union activities and that some method must be found whereby information could be relayed to locals, either through existing officials or in some other way. Along with this, the matter of Junior work was discussed and the necessity of doing something to help the Junior movement was emphasized by many directors. Finally, the executive was empowered to hire an employee of the Farm union who would devote his full time to this type of work. Following the Board meeting the executive met and appointed Mr. William Moisey to this position. In another part of this issue you will be able to see something of Mr. Moisey and his experience for this job. It is anticipated that we may be able to receive donations from other organizations to assist us in this type of work.

A report on F.U.A. Week and Organization was given by Mr. Logan. He reported that the

returns coming in to date were higher than at the same period a year ago. He emphasized that we had allowed a whole week for the collection of membership fees and it seemed a pity that this carried over into the winter each year. He also emphasized that where canvassers had gone out they had had no difficulty in signing up memberships and, in many cases, increasing their membership over the year before. However, he had reason to believe that in many districts the canvassers had not yet gone out and, as a result, no members were secured in those areas. He made recommendations to the Board as to how this problem could be met and, eventually, it was left to the directors to see that something was done to canvass areas in their districts that had not yet been canvassed.

One of the interesting reports that was given at the meeting was on the Egg Marketing Plan. It now appears probable that this plan will be voted on in the late spring or early summer by Alberta egg producers. A small steering committee representing the Farmers' Union, the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, the Alberta Poultry Federation and various other groups interested in this matter, has been set up to co-ordinate the educational program that will be carried out. Most of this work will be done through farm union locals. This should be one of their objectives for the year ahead to see that a favorable vote is secured in each district. This steering committee will be chaired by Mr. Miller of the Alberta Poultry Producers and your president is the representative of your farm union on this committee. Very probably the activities of this committee will begin sometime in March. It is tentatively proposed to send material on the plan to all locals in the province and to arrange for special meetings in those parts of the province where poultry production is of the most importance.

The proposed Hog Marketing Plan was also given tentative approval by the Board. A report on this plan was presented by Mr. Nelson, who is a member of the three-man board set up by the Farmers' Union, the A.L.C. and the Federation of Agriculture to draft this plan.

Many other matters of a more routine nature were dealt with at the three-day meeting which kept the board members well occupied far into the evening. At this meeting Mr. Max Sears, of Wetaskiwin, the new director for District 9, was present. Mr. Sears was the alternate director in that district and has taken over since Mr. Nelson was elected to the executive.

FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT URGES GOVERNMENT END BUYING CROP SURPLUSES

Reporting on the recent Farm Bureau Convention, the Wall Street Journal states that the President of the American Farm Bureau Federation urged the Federal Government's practice of buying up and storing farm commodities be ended.

Charles B. Shuman, in a speech prepared for a general session of the farm organization, asserted:

"Farmers are hurt rather than helped by the accumulation of Government storage stocks of farm commodities."

Recommending continuance of the move gradually away from dependence upon Government action for determination of prices, Mr. Shuman said flexible price support and soil bank legislation were steps in the right direction. But he insisted they are not the long range answer.

They "will not stop the accumulation of Government-owned surpluses and the resulting price declines in agriculture," he said.

"As long as the Secretary of Agriculture has authority to purchase and store farm commodities while attempting to bring about increased prices, we are almost certain to have unwise Government interference in the pricing, production and marketing of farm products.

"No matter who is Secretary of Agriculture or what his party affiliation is, the political pressures generated by national elections in alternate years will result in political rather than economic decisions influencing the purchasing and storage programs of Government.

"There is no good reason for the Government to be engaged in the business of purchasing and storing farm commodities. The fertility of our soil, our normal livestock population and the normal channels of trade all provide all of the food and fibre reserve that is necessary to protect consumers against shortages."

The farm leader recommended current surpluses be disposed of as swiftly as possible—"at reduced prices or given away to needy people at home and abroad"—and that once the surplus in any particular crop is wiped out, the Secretary of Agriculture should be barred from replacing it.

F.U.A. NEWS

The Elbridge Local #316 presented a Christmas concert to a large crowd in the T. Woods School, December 22. The success of the program was the result of hard work on the part of Mrs. G. Lamble, Mrs. N. Lopushinsky and Mrs. M. Iwasiw. The hi-light was the arrival of Santa Claus who passed out gifts. Lunch was served by the ladies and a dance followed.

GORDON HARROLD — NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE A.F.A.

Gordon Harrold, Lamont district farmer was elected chairman of the board when the new board of the A.F.A. met following the A.F.A. convention. Mr. Harrold represents the Alberta Wheat Pool on the board of directors.

Mr. George Church of the U.F.A. Co-op was



GORDON HARROLD

elected 1st vice-president, and Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, FUA, 2nd vice-president. Messrs. Harrold, Platt and Allen are the A.F.A. directors to C.F.A. Our delegates attended the Western Agricultural Conference January 18-19 and the C.F.A. meeting January 21-25, both meetings were held in Winnipeg.

The annual convention of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture took place in Edmonton, January 9, 10, and 11. The F.U.A. directors were Mr. Platt, Mrs. Armstrong, and Mr. Sanford. The delegates were Mrs. Douglass, Messrs Marquardt, Nelson, Seeley and Wuth.

Mr. Seeley and Mrs. Douglass were asked to serve on the Order of Business and Resolutions Committee. All the resolutions were dealt with and the business completed before adjournment. Many resolutions submitted by other member groups were in line with our requests, so we were able to support them, as they did ours. Mr. Marler gave a good address, and along with the directors' and secretary's report a clear picture of the year's work was given to the delegates.

Mayor Hawrelak welcomed the delegates to Edmonton and Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Minister of Agriculture brought greetings from the Government. Mr. Herbert Huges, president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, U.S.A.,

addressed the convention and he introduced five men who hold positions as leaders in agriculture in U.S.A. They mingled with the delegates and it was not only a goodwill gesture but a place where we could exchange information.

The guest speaker at the banquet was Mr. M. J. Marshall, United Kingdom Trade Commissioner. He gave a fine talk on Canadian-U.K. relations and particularly stressed the fact that while Britain is short in dollars she buys twice as much from Canada as we buy back, and we could help matters very much if we would buy British not just as a sympathetic gesture, but because we had shopped around and had decided the goods were better for the money. Even our American friends thought he had a good point there.

Another interesting address was that given by Dr. H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. He outlined the work of C.F.A. nationally and internationally and he answered questions and remained in the convention and heard the resolutions discussed by the delegates.

The report of the Great Plains Water Authority was given by Mr. Carl Anderson. The recommendations made were not favored by the delegates — instead they voted on the resolution dealing with the matter and accepted that.

The report of the committee studying the Western Agricultural Conference was given by Mr. L. R. Jensen and a good discussion followed and the delegates accepted the recommendations.

F.U.A. DISTRICT 5 BONSPIEL

The District 5 FUA Bonspiel will take place February 12th and 13th in Spruce Grove. Closing date for entries is February 6th. Entries may be sent to either Les Miller of Spruce Grove or Oscar Hittinger, phone 1112, Morinville.

Any person holding an FUA membership card for 1957 or a receipt to certify he is a paid up member is eligible to curl in the bonspiel. There is no limit on the number of rinks that can be entered.

There are three events with prizes for the first and second rink in each event. Rinks are guaranteed three games. The winning rink will receive the District Trophy which is held at present by the Hector Gervais rink of St. Albert.

The FWUA spiel will take place February 22nd and 23rd for all ladies of the FWUA and FUA.

The entries must be in by February 16th for the ladies spiel to Les Miller or Oscar Hittinger. The same rules will prevail as in the case of the FUA bonspiel. A trophy will be given to the winning rink.

PATTERSON ELECTED I.F.U.C. PRESIDENT**JAMES PATTERSON**

At the annual meeting of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council, held in Winnipeg, Mr. James Patterson was elected president. Mr. Patterson, a Neepawa district farmer, is also president of the Manitoba Farmers' Union. He succeeds Jake Schulz, of Winnipeg, who did not allow his name to stand. Vice-presidents are A. W. Platt, president of the Farmers Union of Alberta, and Ole Turnbull, vice-president of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union. These three constitute the executive.

The problem of national farm organization was discussed at this meeting and a committee of three, comprising Mrs. W. C. Taylor, of Alberta, Mr. Cormack of Ontario, and Mr. Platt of Alberta, was appointed to negotiate with the C.F.A. to see if an amalgamation of the Farm Unions and the C.F.A. could be arranged, or what form of organization could be devised to provide one national voice for agriculture in Canada.

Arrangements were completed to prepare and present the Federal Brief of the I.F.U.C. to the Federal Government. It is hoped that this presentation can be made early in February.

Mr. Cormack, president of the Ontario Farmers' Union, was elected as the representative on the Farm-Labour Council. He replaces Mr. Joe Phelps of Saskatoon. It is proposed to reorganize this council to provide for provincial representation of both farm and labour unions. At this meeting plans were completed for the summer meeting of the boards of all the farmers' unions. This will be held on July the 15th and 16th, at Winnipeg. Arrangements for

the meeting were left in the hands of the executive.

The unions of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta had all their council members present at this meeting. British Columbia was not represented but they did forward letters saying that they'd had a successful convention and had hopes of solidifying their position in the next year.

The executive met following the council meeting and prepared the budget for the year's work. Receipts are estimated at \$10,700 and expenditures at \$10,000.

Open Forum

Letters for publication from members and subscribers only in The Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the pen name of the sender must accompany the letter. **A recent Board of Directors' ruling limits letters to 300 words and those longer cannot be accepted.** Readers are asked to observe this change. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

Dear Editor:

After attending the F.U.A. convention last month, I am taking this opportunity of dropping a line in appreciation of the good management of the recent convention by the official board of the F.U.A. I have attended about three dozen farmers' conventions since 1920 and cannot recall any at which the chief problems of the year were as well discussed as they were last month. This is no doubt due to the fact that an efficient resolution committee met before the date of the convention and consolidated the ideas contained in all the resolutions dealing with any particular subject into one ordered, and short report and presented that to the convention as covering all the resolutions on the subject.

The discussion this year seemed to be friendly and informative. In talking to one delegate he said that he would be inclined to come next year on his own even if he were not elected as a delegate.

We have seen great presidents of the farmers of Alberta in action for many years, viz. — the late Henry Wise Wood, and Robert Gardiner, but it remained for the energy and ability of ex-president Henry Young in the last year of his office to lead the farmers of Alberta to the highest membership they had ever reached in their history. If we mistake not, nearly double of what it had ever been before. The name of

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FROM A POINT OF LAW:

by A. M. BROWNLEE

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS ACT (Municipalities)

The rather complicated provisions of this Act are quite often misunderstood by landowners, poundkeepers and frequently by municipal councils. An attempt will be made in this article to explain the rights and limitations granted and imposed by this Act with respect to the impounding of domestic animals which trespass on private lands. The provisions of the Act respecting entire animals and mischievous animals will be dealt with in the succeeding issue of *The Organized Farmer*.

At the outset it might well be suggested that any landowner who has suffered damage by reason of domestic animals having trespassed on his lands should consider whether he would be better off to bring an action against the owner of the animals in a civil court, or whether he will obtain satisfaction by impounding the animals and filing his claim with the poundkeeper. He must elect between these two alternatives as he cannot do both.

Section 28 of The Domestic Animals Act (Municipalities) states that the injured landowner shall be entitled to his remedy at common law by reason of the trespassing, but that "the taking of proceedings under this Act" shall be deemed a waiver by him of any such right of action in respect of the trespass. Once the landowner chooses to impound the animals pursuant to the Act he has lost his remedy at common law, and if the value of the impounded animals should be less than the amount of the damage claim, it would appear that he would not make good his loss.

Under what circumstances can the owner or occupier of land impound domestic animals? First, the Act provides that Municipalities or parts thereof where there is no by-law restraining animals from running at large, shall be pound districts may capture and impound any estrays which they find upon land occupied by them and which land is surrounded by a lawful fence, provided that the estrays cannot be kept away from the lands after repeated attempts. Reference should be made directly to the Act for the lengthy definitions of the types

of fences which qualify as lawful fences. Where there is in any municipality a by-law restraining animals from running at large, any owner or occupier of land may capture any animal running at large and may impound it.

A person impounding domestic animals may have suffered damages for which he will want to make a claim. He should be very careful that when he impounds the animals he follows strictly the provisions of Section 27 (1) which read as follows:

"Any person impounding an animal shall at the time of impounding deliver to the poundkeeper a written statement describing the animal impounded, and setting forth the name of the owner (if known), the place where the animal was found, and the amount of damages, if any, claimed, and if damages are claimed, he shall at the same time deposit with the poundkeeper the sum of \$2.00 as security for the cost of any investigation under sub-section 4 of this Section."

The statement of the damages claimed must be filed "at the time of the impounding" and not at a later date, and the claimant must be sure that he has deposited the security as required. Failure to do these things may result in a claimant losing his rights altogether. Instances have occurred where the claimant states that he did not know the requirements of the Act. This, of course, is most unfortunate, but will not restore his rights as he is bound by these requirements whether he knows of them or not. We have heard landowners complain that the poundkeeper did not ask them for the deposit or for the statement of damages. The Act does not require the poundkeeper to assist or advise the claimant, and quite often the poundkeeper is not familiar with the Act and is not competent to advise the claimant.

After the impounding has been properly completed, the owner of the animal must pay the claimant's damages or suffer the loss of the animal which will be sold to pay the damages. This is subject to an appeal by the owner of the animal to the municipal council against the amount of the damage claim, and in such an appeal the decision of the municipal council will be final and binding on both parties.

CO-OP CORNER

PEOPLE ARE FUNNY!

You remember that last month we asked you to send in your 'beefs' about Co-ops. Well, one man came to see us, and he had a 'beef'.

"Look," he said, "I've been dealing with a co-op grocery store for five years. They charge me just the same as any other store and the last dividend they have ever paid is a measly 2 per cent. Some years they pay nothing. Well, I don't mind that too much, but it burns me up that they won't trust me. They want cash right on the dot. No charge accounts, — and me a member of the store."

"Well," said we, "how much have you invested in your store?" "Ten bucks," said our friend. "I bought \$10 in shares five years ago."

"How big a bill would you like to run," we asked. "Oh," he said, "it might get up to \$200 at times."

"O. K.," we said, "now where does your store get money to operate?" "Well," he said, "they have the share capital." "Sure," we said, "you put in \$10, and you take out \$200 in groceries. Hoy is your manager going to get that \$200 worth of goods back on the shelves if you don't pay for them?" "Oh, I pay as soon as I get the money." "Fine," we said, "but in the meantime, if you go back and find the shelves empty, what will you say?" "Shucks," he said, "they can't do business with empty shelves."

"That's right," we said, "but who emptied them?"

"You know," said my friend, "you talk too much. Now you have started me thinking."

"Keep it up," we said, "it's healthy."

* * *

We got another beef by mail. Here it is. "Our co-op directors have a ruling that notices of political meetings of any kind must not be posted in the co-op store. The other stores respond with the invitation, "Sure thing, come on in My own conviction is that the ruling is contrary to the spirit of Democracy"

Co-op Corner would like to point out that co-ops have always been most careful not to get involved in political, racial or religious issues. These things are outside of the field of co-operation.

However, co-ops are most anxious that their members be as well informed as possible about everything that goes on in our society and certainly they should be well informed about the policies and activities of ALL political parties. One way to obtain this information is to attend political meetings.

Since a co-op exists to serve its members in any way possible it should, in the opinion of

Co-op Corner, see to it that ANY event which will be helpful to its members is advertised as widely as possible. As long as ALL parties are accorded the same privilege, the Co-op cannot be accused of taking sides. It is simply informing its members that a meeting, which should be of interest to them, is taking place.

We'd like to hear from a member who holds a different view.

Next!

OPEN FORUM

(Continued on Page 24)

Henry Young was again placed in nomination for president for next year, along with that of Mr. Platt. In withdrawing his name from nomination Mr. Young, while willing to serve the organization in any capacity, advised us that the best interests of the organization would be served by the re-election of Mr. Platt. He withdrew his name, making the election of Mr. Platt unanimous. This manifestation of such a high spirit of loyalty and of personal friendship, reminded us of David and Jonathan of old, and is a promise of harmonious progress for the future.

I. V. Macklin,

Box 1076, Grande Prairie.

The Editor,
The Organized Farmer.

At the recently held annual F.U.A. Convention a Constitutional Amendment (Resolution No. 1) was introduced by District No. 12 and District No. 3 Convention. An amendment to this resolution was introduced and turned down by the delegates. This amendment was the original resolution passed at the District No. 3 Convention, suggesting that the District F.U.A. Directors term of office be limited to five consecutive years.

When the convention turned this suggestion down, it was a good example of how a few eloquent speakers can direct the thinking of a large gathering into formulating illogical rules.

According to our constitution at present we limit the most important person in our organization to a term of five consecutive years. It should therefore be considered logical to apply the same limitation to the most important person in each F.U.A. District.

If, on the other hand, it is considered unsound to suggest that District Directors be limited to five consecutive years, then, in our humble opinion, it is both inconsistent and discourteous to subject our Provincial President to such a limitation.

District No. 3 Board.



U.G.G. Leadership ... is No Mere Accident

Farm policies based on over half a century of study of western problems underline the emergence of United Grain Growers Limited as a leader in the vast industry of agriculture.

Down through the years this farmer-owned co-operative, organized by farmers to protect their interests, has become noted for its soundness. Not only in the conduct of its own affairs, but soundness in the leadership it has given to the whole western farm movement. Through its high objectives, its adherence to principles for which it was formed and for the efficiency of its business operations, it has won the confidence of government bodies and farm organizations alike.

U.G.G. policies . . . many of which have had a far reaching and beneficial effect on our western economy . . . are no mere accident. Rather they result from a careful appraisal of everchanging conditions in agriculture.

When you entrust your business to this pioneer grain firm you do so assured each transaction will be handled to your satisfaction . . . that you will benefit from the experience and sound policies for which the Company is recognized.

United Grain Growers Ltd.

"Serving Western Farmers For Over Half A Century"

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL GRAIN MARKETING POLICIES

Grain marketing policies of the Alberta Wheat Pool as set out in resolutions passed at the recent annual meeting include:

1. Support of the Canadian Wheat Board as the sole marketing agency for wheat, oats and barley and the inclusion of flax and rye under Board operations.
2. Support of the International Wheat Agreement.
3. Approval of the federal government's policy of assuming a portion of the carrying charges on surplus wheat stocks, this being a partial fulfillment of requests made by the Pool last year.
4. Incentive payments should be made available to encourage farmers to take land out of cereal production and place it in forage crop.
5. The establishment of a domestic price for wheat of \$2.00 a bushel, the ceiling of the present International Wheat Agreement.
6. Support of the government's action in concluding wheat deals with Iron Curtain countries last year and its policy of granting short term credit to buyers. Delegates recommended that these and other markets be expanded and aggressive sales policies be employed.
7. Insistence that the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement be retained in its present form.
8. That boxcars be allocated to elevators on the basis of the farmer's choice.

These policies were formulated by the 70 elected delegates representing the 49,000 Pool members. As with all Wheat Pool policies they are intended to be in the best interests of Alberta farmers.

The Alberta Wheat Pool is a farmer's organization whose sole purpose for existence is to service the needs and protect the interests of farm people. It deserves widespread support.

